

# Cruisin' Through Construction



Interstate 215 Widening Project, San Bernardino

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## Effective January 1— No Texting while Driving



SANBAG's and Caltrans' priority is to ensure all drivers are safe while traveling – including following the laws on our local streets and freeways.

Starting January 1, 2009 California will join Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Connecticut and Washington, among other states, in banning drivers from text messaging while operating a vehicle.

Senate Bill 28, which was introduced in March 2007 by Senator Joe Simitian, a Democrat from Palo Alto, was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 24, 2008.

The new law includes a ban on more than just writing a text message. Specifically, the law prohibits driving "while using an electronic wireless communication device to write, send, or read a text-based communication."

Violations of the new ban on text messages will result in a \$20 fine for a first offense and a \$50 fine for each subsequent offense.

## Project Questions?

For questions or to request a presentation about the widening of Interstate 215, call the toll-free helpline, **1-877-215-NEWS.**



## One Year Marks Big Changes for Phase 2 Construction

Caltrans and the contractor, MCM Construction, have made significant progress in the first year that they have been working on the I-215 Widening Project. Motorists can see the beginning stages of additional lanes on the freeway, as well as the decorative retaining walls being erected near the Inland Center Mall.



Construction continues near Inland Center Mall

During the first week in January, Caltrans plans to have a nighttime full freeway closure as work continues to widen the Inland Center Drive bridge. Detailed detour information is available on the Web site listed below.

Monthly meetings between Caltrans, local merchants and emergency workers continue to address construction updates and issues. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Caltrans Annex building at 655 West Second Street in San Bernardino.

For planned lane and ramp closures within Phase 2, please visit the Caltrans Web site at [www.caltrans8.info](http://www.caltrans8.info). For the safety of you and the workers, please SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE and remember traffic fines are doubled in construction zones.

## Stimulus Package Could Expedite Inland Transportation Projects

The nation's planned economic stimulus proposal seeks to spur the economy through transportation projects. Agencies such as SANBAG and Caltrans could receive funding toward rebuilding roads, bridges and rail lines in the Inland Empire, leading to a boost in available jobs in the area.

"I think it's positive for the Inland Empire because we have the biggest growth and biggest need in terms of infrastructure," said Rep. Joe Baca, D-San Bernardino, in a recent *San Bernardino Sun* article.

The one catch to the plan is a "use it or lose it" clause that forces transportation agencies to apply the money to projects within a to-be-determined timeframe or risk losing funding. Currently, agency officials are reviewing projects to identify which could be considered within the time limits and are planning to push for funding in early January 2009.

Despite the unknown about the stimulus package, SANBAG continues to move forward in planning and developing major and minor transportation improvements throughout the county.



The I-215 widening project is a partnership among San Bernardino Associated Governments, the California Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the City of San Bernardino.

